

Kenneth O. Preston for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Sergeant Major Preston, the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army, will retire from active military duty in March after 35 distinguished years of service to the United States Army.

Sergeant Major of the Army Preston is a native of Mount Savage, Maryland and was born in February 1957. He entered the Army in June of 1975 as a Cavalry Scout, hoping to save enough money for college to become an architect. After serving his first enlistment, he and his family decided to pursue a career in the Army. He has served in every enlisted leadership position including cavalry scout, Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, tank commander, and Command Sergeant Major. He was selected as the Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Armored Division and V Corps in Germany. Prior to his current assignment, he was the Command Sergeant Major for Combined Joint Task Force 7 during Operation Iraqi Freedom and was instrumental in executing the invasion into Iraq.

Kenneth Preston has been awarded numerous personal awards and decorations during his career. The Legion of Merit Medal (with oak leaf cluster), the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with three oak leaf clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (with three oak leaf clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), the Army Good Conduct Medal (with silver knot and three bronze knots), the National Defense Service Ribbon (with one bronze service star), the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (with award numeral 4), the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Ribbons (with award numeral four), the NATO Medal, the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Kuwait), the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (with oak leaf cluster), the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Department of the Army Staff Badge.

Mr. Speaker, It has been a pleasure to work closely with Sergeant Major Preston over the last seven years of his career as he has served in the highest enlisted position attainable in the Army. He has proven himself to be a tremendous wartime leader who demonstrated unselfish devotion to the Nation and the soldiers he leads. He has been a friend and trusted advisor to my colleagues and I on the Appropriations Committee as he worked tirelessly to restore balance to a force stressed by the demands of the war on terrorism. He was instrumental in significantly improving our Soldiers' uniform, equipment—and most importantly—professional Non-Commissioned Officer Education System. The impact of his efforts will benefit the Army for decades to come. His personal leadership contributed to building the most professional Non-Commissioned Officer Corps in the world. As the highest enlisted Soldier, he ensured our Soldiers remained true to the core Army Values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. His focus on adherence to discipline and high upkeep of Army standards have led to the successful execution of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sergeant Major of the Army Preston and Chief of the Staff of the Army General George Casey Jr. worked together tirelessly to increase support for families by implementing the Army Family Covenant and the Army Community Covenant to expand and improve services and raise awareness about the unique challenges military families face. His observations and advice to the Army leadership have impacted the decisions to implement the most comprehensive transformation of the Army since World War II, building versatile and modular units capable of conducting a full-spectrum of operations.

This Non-Commissioned Officer has continued the traditions of the Best Warrior Competition that was introduced in 2002. He ensured that Soldiers from any military occupational specialty, male or female, could compete and win. The motivation, discipline and focus of these competitors, from across the Army, is a direct result of his presence, support and leadership.

Sergeant Major of the Army Preston's most important contribution was through his direct involvement with the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Education System. He oversaw the greatest transformation of the Non-Commissioned Officer Education System since its advent. He encouraged distributed learning, allowing Soldiers the capability of taking classes online, affording them more time at home with their families. The Advanced and Senior Leader Courses are now closer in line with what our leaders require in Afghanistan and Iraq. With the introduction of the Structured Self-Development online module system, Soldiers are ensured the best training and education.

Kenneth Preston is an American hero who has been selfless in his service to the Nation through war, peace, and personal trial. His performance and accomplishments throughout his long and distinguished career have left a legacy of training, professional education, and care for families that is without equal. When history looks back at the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army, it will be clear that his abilities as a trainer, leader and senior enlisted advisor were a fitting tribute to the professionalism of the best Non-Commissioned Officer Corps in the world.

Mr. Speaker, On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country throughout his distinguished career in the United States Army and we wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 28, 2011

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote Number 92 (Kline Amendment No. 214) on H.R. 1, I mistakenly recorded my vote as “no” when I should have voted “yes.”

HONORING WILLIAM THEODORE
“BILL” KIRBY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 28, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life and legacy of William Theodore “Bill” Kirby.

Off of Triangle Road in Mariposa County, CA, is Kirby Peak. The peak is named in honor of Bill's 1933 volunteer effort to save this land from a forest fire. As the firemen worked to contain the fire, their resupply line was stretched due to the tough terrain. Bill, a teenager at the time, volunteered to work with others in the pack crew. He led a mule train to the fire with much needed supplies for the firemen and assisted in the firefight.

Like many in his generation, Bill came when called to serve the war effort. He spent World War II aboard the SS *Marcus Daly*—a merchant marine ship. The *Daly* was not only one of the first ships into the Philippines, but also received the Merchant Marine Gallant Ship Citation Ribbon. Bill himself received a personal citation for his bravery after the *Daly* was attacked.

Following the war Bill returned to Merced and founded, along with his father and brother, Kirby Manufacturing, a maker of farm machinery and equipment. Kirby Manufacturing has expanded into a global producer and was the first American manufacturer to sell farm equipment to China following normalization. Kirby equipment is also used to load and maintain Air Force One.

Even while running a multinational manufacturer, Bill found a way to be a pillar of our community. He was a Scoutmaster, an Elk, and a Mason. He served as President of the Merced County Chamber of Commerce, the Merced County Fair Board, and the Merced County Historical Society. As a testament to his influence, every year people around the community participate in “The Bill Kirby Annual Historical Society BBQ.”

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Bill Kirby and his many contributions to California and the Nation. May we keep him and those he left behind in our hearts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 28, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, due to a family medical emergency, I had to return to Michigan on the evening of February 18. I was unable to be present to cast my vote on a series of amendments to H.R. 1, as well as on final passage of this bill. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 104, I would have voted “no.”

Had I been present for rollcall No. 105, I would have voted “no.”

Had I been present for rollcall No. 106, I would have voted “no.”

Had I been present for rollcall No. 107, I would have voted “no.”

Had I been present for rollcall No. 108, I would have voted “no.”